

EXHIBIT

3

DATE

2/4/13

HB

11

Office of  
The Board of County Commissioners  
Granite County

Post Office Box 925, Philipsburg, Montana 59858-0925

Office Telephone 406-859-7022 Office Fax 406-859-3817 Web Site [www.co.granite.mt.us](http://www.co.granite.mt.us)

Scott C. Adler, Chairman  
750 Frontage Road West  
Drummond MT 59832

Clifford Nelson, Commissioner  
25 Nelson Lane  
Philipsburg MT 59858

Bart C. Bonney, Commissioner  
P O Box 701  
Philipsburg MT 59858

January 29, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB11

Dear Chair Ankney and House Appropriations Committee Members:

We are writing to request your support of HB11 and the TSEP Program. Commissioner Bart Bonney testified before the LRP Subcommittee earlier this session to express the vital importance of the TSEP Program to the citizens of both Granite County and Montana.

The individual projects listed to be funded, including Granite County's Bridges Projects, are vital to job creation in each community and Granite County's project could be under construction as early as the fall of 2013. We feel strongly that the investment in infrastructure provides a long-term benefit to the citizens of our state by improving public safety and quality of life.

We also stress the importance of a strong transportation system capable of serving the needs of private business well into the future.

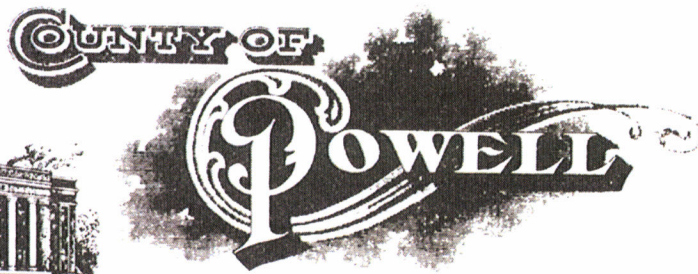
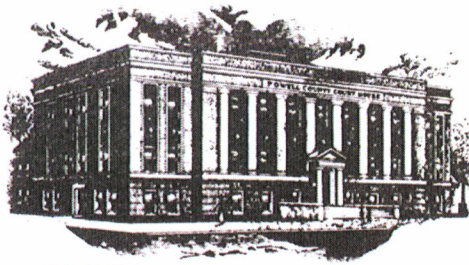
We appreciate the committee's consideration and ask for your vote in favor of HB11.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF GRANITE COUNTY

  
Scott C. Adler, Chairman

cc: MACo



January 31, 2013

409 Missouri Avenue  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722  
406-846-9786

Representative Ankney, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

The Honorable Representative Ankney:

The Powell County Board of Commissioners goes on record in support of TSEP funding for Center Street and Willow Creek Bridge Projects.

This request is extremely important to the safety of the citizens of Deer Lodge and Powell County.

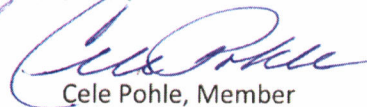
The Center Street Bridge dropped in ranking due to a short detour which under normal conditions is true, however, during the 2011 flood, Center Street was one of only two single lane bridges that had the elevation to remain open until the state was able to reopen Main Street. With the majority of the population south of the creek and the hospital on the north side plus all of the equipment trucks, supplies, rip rap, sand bags, etc. that were being moved, this bridge became a major artery. Due to flood damage and age deterioration, this bridge has now been closed to traffic. Normally, the detour is minimal; however, during an emergency the detour becomes closer to twenty miles.

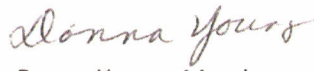
The Willow Creek Bridge is located south of Deer Lodge and is an access to the Montana State Prison Ranch. Two other bridges in the area were constructed at approximately the same time. One had been closed and has since been replaced. The second bridge is now closed and is scheduled to be replaced. It is our hope that the TSEP funding will enable us to get this bridge replaced before it is condemned and closed to traffic.

Sincerely,

POWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Ralph E. Mannix, Jr., Chair

  
Cele Pohle, Member

  
Donna Young, Member



## BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF NORTHERN MONTANA

48 Second Avenue • Suite 202 • PO Box 170 • Havre, MT 59501 • 406.265.9226 • fax: 406.265.5602 • [www.bearpaw.org](http://www.bearpaw.org)

### Board of Directors:

Shaud Schwarzbach  
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Vic Miller  
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*Secretary*  
Doug Kaercher  
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Stan Klimas  
Jim Ghekiere  
Rich Sangrey  
Ken Engellant  
Lesley Robinson  
Kathy Bessette  
Rick Morris  
John Allen  
Betty Hofeldt  
Tim Solomon  
Shyla Jones  
Curtis Starr  
Debbie Callahan  
Rachel Ghekiere  
Rob Moog  
Greg Kegel  
Shane Cline

### Executive Director:

Paul Tuss

### Director of

#### Operations:

Michelle Burchard

### Director of

#### Loan Services:

Christin Hileman

### Loan Technician:

Brent Melle

### Director of

#### Community

#### Planning:

Krystal Steinmetz

### Small Business

#### Development

### Center Director:

Joe LaPlante

### Value Added

#### Agriculture

### Coordinator:

Tiffany Melby

### Infrastructure

#### Specialists:

Pam Lemer

Michele Turville

January 30, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney, Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Ankney:

I believe that the recent decision by the Long Range Planning Subcommittee to fund all Treasure State Endowment Program projects is a solid one. As you well know, our state's aging infrastructure is an impediment to the economic growth of Montana and poses a significant challenge to the communities of our state as they work to not only serve their existing residents, but also plan for future growth. Without question, TSEP funding is one of the best opportunities available to our local governments as they work to deal with crumbling water and sewer systems and bridges that are unsafe.

In Bear Paw Development's five-county region of northern Montana, there are several quality infrastructure projects that are included in HB 11, the TSEP funding proposal. They include the following:

- Blaine County Bridges
- Chouteau County Bridges
- Malta Drinking Water
- Harlem Wastewater
- Havre Wastewater
- Hill County North Havre Wastewater (RSID Nos. 11 & 21)
- Chinook Drinking Water
- Fort Benton Wastewater

Each one of these projects will add significantly to the livability of these communities. TSEP funding will also assure that moving forward with the rehabilitation of these

BLAINE COUNTY • CHOUTEAU COUNTY • HILL COUNTY • LIBERTY COUNTY • PHILLIPS COUNTY • BIG SANDY  
CHESTER • CHINOOK • FORT BENTON • HARLEM • HAVRE • MALTA • FORT BELKNAP • ROCKY BOY • LITTLE SHELL

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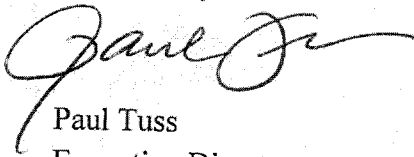
January 30, 2013

drinking water systems, wastewater systems and bridges can occur in a way that is affordable to the residents of these cities, towns, counties and special districts.

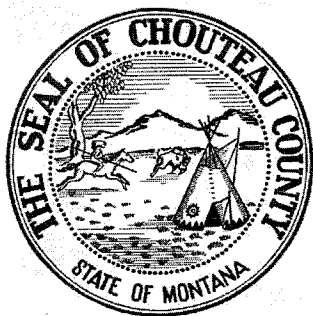
Your past support of TSEP is greatly appreciated. I strongly urge you and the full Appropriations Committee to pass HB 11, as amended in the Long Range Planning Subcommittee.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Tuss", written in dark ink.

Paul Tuss  
Executive Director



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Chouteau County, Montana**

P. O. Box 459  
FORT BENTON, MONTANA 59442  
TELEPHONE: 406-622-3631  
FAX: 406-622-3012

**COMMISSIONERS**

Daren J. Schuster, Chairman  
Stan Klimas  
Robert J. Pasha

**CLERK**

Lana K. Claassen

**REGULAR MEETINGS:**

Every Monday and the first and  
third Tuesday of the month  
following the first Monday.

February 1, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Ankney:

On behalf of Chouteau County, I would like to express my gratitude to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning for their support of HB 11 and allowing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of our bridge project. Additionally, I would like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding all projects for Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding. As Chouteau County was below the original funding line, we ask that you support the proposed amendments to add all projects as we are in dire need of the improvements to our infrastructure.

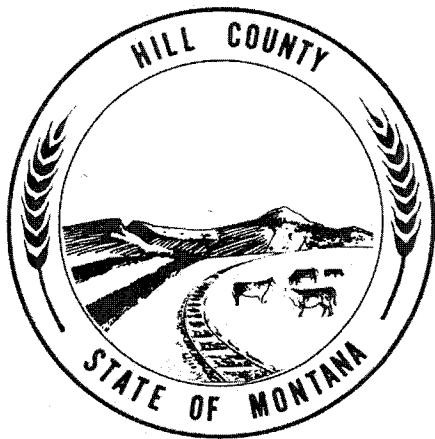
Chouteau County's bridge project is to replace the existing Upper Highwood Creek Road Bridge. The bridge has been subject to many flooding events resulting in 18-21 inches of differential settlement, specifically at the northern abutment, and many users are reluctant to use the bridge. Chouteau County will not be in the financial position to proceed with this project without TSEP funding. In addition, our project will address a serious health and safety issue of our community, provide a quality essential service to our residents, and promote growth of the economy.

Thank you for your time and support. If I can answer any questions, please contact me at (406) 622-3631.

Regards,

Daren Schuster, Chair  
Chouteau County Commission





# COUNTY OF HILL

Hill County Courthouse

315 4th Street

Havre, Montana 59501

[406] 265-5481 Ext. 227

Fax [406] 265-2445

Michael Wendland, Chair

Jeff LaVoi, Commissioner

Mark Peterson, Commissioner

January 31, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, Montana 59620-0400

Dear Chairman Ankney:

On behalf of Hill County we would like to express our gratitude to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning for their support of HB 11 and allowing us the opportunity to testify on behalf of our waste water project. Additionally, we would like to commend the committee on their decision to vote in favor of funding all applications for Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) funding. While Hill County was ranked above the cutoff line we do appreciate the Committees plan to fund all proposed projects.

Hill County's project is to replace two force mains under the Milk River from the north side of Havre to the City of Havre waste water treatment plant and also a lift station for a RSID. Hill County would have to adjust user rates as a result of this project. Rates would increase, but will not be as drastic if TSEP funding is granted. Hill County would not be in the financial position to proceed with this project without TSEP funding. In addition, our project will address a serious health and safety issue in our community, and continue to provide quality essential services to our residents.

Thank you for your time and support. If we can answer any questions, please contact us at (406)265-5481 extension 227.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Wendland in cursive script.

Michael Wendland, Chair

Handwritten signature of Jeff LaVoi in cursive script.

Jeff LaVoi, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Mark Peterson in cursive script.

Mark Peterson, Commissioner

February 1, 2013

Carbon County Commission

17 11<sup>th</sup> St. West

PO Box 887

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Representative Ankney, Chair

House Appropriations Committee

Montana House of Representatives

PO Box 200400

Helena, MT 59620-0400

Via e-mail

Dear Representative Ankney:

I am writing to ask for your support for HB11, funding for the Treasure State Endowment Program.

Carbon County has bridge projects on the list for funding. One, the Montaquia bridge over Rock Creek built in 1921 has long since outlived its usefulness as a farm to market route. This bridge is the shortest route from the very productive agriculture area known as Poverty Flat to points west and south. The area produces sugar beets, corn, hay, and small grains. In addition, there is a large commercial cattle feeder directly east of the bridge. All of these users must detour at a minimum of six miles around this old structure with their trucks. The school bus route was changed to avoid it resulting in more seat time for young students. The condition of the bridge represents a threat to public safety and a liability to the county.

The second, Poverty Flat Road Bridge, much smaller and less expensive is also in poor condition. The south abutment of this aging structure has settled 18 inches and rotated 8 inches. We still have heavy farm truck traffic on this structure as it is in the middle of very productive farm ground.

These structures are in desperate need of replacement. We are prepared to do our part to replace these bridges. We could be under construction in the fall of 2013 if they are funded, creating jobs for Montana workers and business for Montana companies. These projects will improve public safety, the quality of life for local rural residents, and provide a transportation system capable of serving the needs of farmers and ranchers in this very productive area of our county.

I ask you Representative Ankney to support HB11 funding these projects is the right thing to do. Thank you for your service to the people of Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Grewell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John L. Grewell

Presiding Officer

Carbon County Commission





**COUNTY OF STILLWATER**  
**STATE OF MONTANA**  
**STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**P. O. BOX 970**  
**COLUMBUS, MONTANA 59019**

February 4, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

**RE: Stillwater County TSEP Grant**

Dear Representative Ankney:

Stillwater County has made a commitment to improve the roads and bridges within the county. By doing so, we have been able to make our roads safer and improve the quality of life for residents, visitors, recreationalists, and businesses.

The Treasure State Endowment Program has been a large part of this commitment. TSEP is one of the few means counties have to acquire financial assistance for bridge replacements. Without TSEP, Stillwater County would not be able to replace as many bridges as we have.

We recently applied for this legislative TSEP grant for 2 bridges, the Benbow Road Bridge (BR1) and the Rosebud Cemetery Road (RC1). To our disappointment, we did not receive funding for either of these projects.

TSEP is a very important program for counties not only for the improvements of our infrastructure, but also for the fact they provide jobs and invest in the local economies.

We support the funding of all TSEP bridge applicants. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**STILLWATER COUNTY**

Gerald W. Dell, Chair

Maureen Davey

Dennis Shupak

Cc: Rep. David Howard  
Senator Jason Priest

Need  
copies



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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**Andy Hunthausen**

**Michael A. Murray**

City-County Building 316 North Park Avenue Helena, Montana 59623 Phone 406.447.8304 Fax 406.447.8370

February 1, 2013

Representative Ankney, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Representative Ankney:

Please support our proposed TSEP Grant Application included in HB11. The application is for replacing two bridges in the northern area of Lewis and Clark County. These two bridges provide access to area businesses, residents, ranches, recreational opportunities and for emergency response. These two bridge projects will also put suppliers and contractors to work, will improve infrastructure and ensure safe travel for all users on these roads.

We appreciate your consideration for support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Murray, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners